

Swimming Pool Enclosure Requirements

City of Tempe
Development Services Dept.
Building Safety Division
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Tempe, AZ 85281
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A. Enclosure Requirements

In accordance with Section 31-18, Tempe City Code, every premise having a private outdoor swimming pool (in excess of eighteen inches in depth) shall be enclosed by walls of a building or by a fence of a height not less than five (5) feet, measured on the exterior side, completely enclosing that portion of the premises upon which the pool is located.

B. Gates

Every opening in the fence shall be provided with minimum five (5) foot high gates equipped with a self-closing and self-latching latch or lock in good working condition, located upon the inside of any fence gate and with no means provided for opening the gate from the outside other than by a person reaching over the gate and opening it from the inside; provided that an exterior latch may be permitted if it is padlocked at all times when the pool is not being used by adults.

C. Fence Material and Openings

If the design or the material of the fence or gate is such that there are openings, said openings shall be of a size to prohibit a spherical object 4" in diameter from passing through or under the fence or gate.

D. Responsibility for Maintenance

Section 31-21 states that it is the responsibility of both the property owner and the occupant of the premises to provide and maintain the enclosures around swimming pools and to maintain the fences, locks, latches, and gates in good condition and proper working order.

E. Inspection of Enclosure

At the time the permit for your pool is issued, the contractor is notified that he is required to call for inspections, which includes inspection of the pool and fence enclosure prior to applying the finish plaster. Inspection of the fence prior to plastering is required because it is usually necessary to fill the pool immediately after plastering and the fence is required so long as there is water in a pool.

F. Overhead Electrical Conductors

If the proposed pool is located within ten (10) feet, measured horizontally, of an overhead electrical service drop conductor, other overhead wiring, or a service attachment point, the service drop, wiring, or service panel must be moved prior to approval for plastering (Section 680-8, National Electrical Code). Unless included in the pool contract, this is usually the responsibility of the owner.

G. Construction Clean-Up

The Tempe City Code also requires that the lot and all nearby premises including adjacent alleys be left clean upon completion of a construction project. This responsibility ultimately reverts back to the property owner if the contractor fails to remove the construction debris.

H. Summary

To avoid delay in the finishing of the pool, it is suggested that you make the necessary arrangements to insure that a complying enclosure is completed and the overhead service drop is relocated prior to the request for inspection for plastering of the pool.

Once approval of the pool and the enclosure is granted, the pool can be plastered and filled. You can verify that approval has been given by noting the inspector's signature on Item 16 of the red Inspection Record Card, which is required to be posted on the site.

We hope this information will be useful to you, and thank you for your cooperation.